

Brighton & Hove  
Learning Disability Partnership Board  
[www.brightpart.org](http://www.brightpart.org)

Work and Skills Group  
Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 8 June 2010

Present: Maureen Pasmore (Chair, BHCC Supported Employment)  
Suzette Attwood (BHCC Volunteer Work Project)  
Jenny Fensome (BHCC Employment Support Team)  
Neil Holmes (Care Co-ops)  
Chris Bland (Grace Eyre Foundation)  
Cherrie Thaxter (Minute taker)  
Liz Hall (Carousel)  
Jacqui Streeter (Local Authority Day Services)  
Diana Bernhardt (BHCC Leading Commissioner for Learning Disabilities)

Absent: Yvonne Elliott (City College)

### Welcome/Introduction

**Maureen** welcomed everyone.

**Maureen** told everyone about the changes to the benefit system.

All people who get disability benefits will have a review of their benefits starting in 2010. This means Jobcentre Plus will check that people are on the right benefits. Everybody's benefits will change. People who think this is wrong for them will get a chance to appeal against what has been decided. Sometimes the decision will be changed. Everyone in the Works and



Skills Group talked about this.

**Actions:**

1. **Maureen** will give the group more information about this when she has it.
2. **Diana** will talk to her manager Jane Simmons. This is to make sure all council staff who need to know are told about the changes to benefits.

**Maureen** told everyone about the single employment programme that the coalition government wants to start. This may change lots of things that help people with learning disabilities get jobs.



**Minutes of last meeting 29 April 2010**

**Liz** spoke to Mencap who want to join this group. They are very busy at the moment so could not come to this meeting. They hope to attend next time.

**Action:**

We will send them a copy of the Minutes



**Update from Partnership Board**

**Diana** said there is concern that money being paid by the government to the Partnership Board might stop. This might change the money given for bids. Everyone talked about this as some money has already been spent.

**Action:**

**Neil** and **Chris** to send Diane details of money spent so far.



There is a new chairperson of the Partnership Board – his name is Steve Harmer-Strange. The co-chair Matthew Hellett has resigned. People are being asked to nominate a new co-chair. This means suggesting someone who would be good at this job.

**Maureen** talked to the Partnership Board about Work and people with learning disabilities.

**Maureen** had prepared a paper with the five big areas that the **Employment Plan** would cover.

The Partnership Board told Maureen their ideas about what they will do.

Everyone in our group talked about this.

The Work and Skills group will include these ideas in the **Employment Plan** make a plan use everyone's ideas.

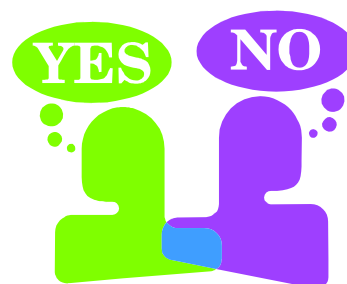
Maureen has to go back to the Partnership Board in September to tell them how we are getting on.

Maureen also talked to the Partnership Board about the Strategic Employment Group. The Board agreed that this group should be set up. The group talked about how it would work.

The group looked at the 'Getting a Life' poster called Pathway into Work. It has lots of good ideas about getting people who can really help (experts) to work together.



**Action:** Maureen and Liz will make a poster like this for the **Employment Plan**.



### **LDDF Projects 2010/11**

Everyone is concerned about money for the projects. This is because no-one knows where the Government will make cuts to money given to local authority projects. We should find this out when the Government tells everyone about the Budget on 22 June 2010.

We have agreed to pay for two projects.

- The Learning Disability Together network - £17600 led by Care Co-ops, Impetus and the CVF.
- SHARE led by Grace Eyre and CAROUSEL

**Neil** talked about the Learning Disability Network. Care Coops are working with the Community and Voluntary Forum and Impetus. Together they have added value to the amount given in the LDDF bid. The total project is now worth about £50,000.



## Update from Members

**Suzette** told everyone that she has about 20-30 people on her waiting list for help to get some voluntary work. The Work & Skills Group is concerned because we need to help more people into voluntary work.

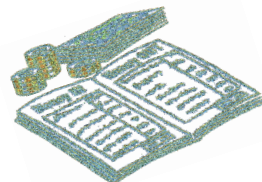
**Liz** said future funding is a concern. Clients are showing concerns about Government cuts.

**Chris** said Grace Eyre are still looking for a replacement for Tanya. Grace Eyre is working in partnership with Care Coops on a work exchange scheme to France. The people going have been learning French. It is hoped they will become mentors for next year's group who will go to France too. The Work & Skills group thought that this was a very good project. We would like to see more of these.

**Jacqui** said lots of planning is going on at Day Services. Each day centre will have a theme. The themes are:

1. Employment and Independence
2. Healthy living and relationships
3. Complex needs service

They have not been able to offer individual budgets for the people who use the service. This is because of a lack of money to pay for the extra work needed. **Jacqui** said that they are looking at the actual cost of the services provided to help future planning.



The Work & Skills group is very worried about this because it is not fair for people who use Jacqui's day service.

Local Authority Day Services will be holding a **Choices Event** over two days at the King Alfred Ballroom. This is a good way to look at how the services may change in the future to help the users.

Day Services have two allotments near the Foredown Tower in Portslade. Service users can enjoy days gardening in this lovely setting. The Work & Skills Group said that Jacqui should speak to a local garden centre to see if people could also get some work experience there.

**Action:**

**Jacqui** to send out invitations for the open day on 9<sup>th</sup> July.

**Jenny** told the group about the new plans for services in the city council. Assessment teams will be in one area and Supported Employment and adult social services may be in another. This is to make sure that the money that is spent on services is spent properly.

**Jenny** has talked to the Disability Employment Advisor (DEA) at Jobcentre Plus about the Two Ticks scheme. This is a scheme where employers agree to interview all disabled people who apply if they meet the minimum standards for the job.

**Choices  
Event  
13 and 14  
July**



<p><b>Jenny</b> met with the Community Learning Disability Team to talk to them about what they can do to help people think about work. They said that they were doing a lot of work to help people think about work. The Work &amp; Skills group said that this was good news.</p>	
<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p><b>Diana</b> said that there is going to be a new contract framework for providers to help them to support more people to develop skills for life and work.</p> <p><b>Chris</b> said that the important thing was to make sure that people had individual budgets. He said that then services would have to change quite quickly.</p> <p><b>Diana</b> said that the plan was that all people with a learning disability should have an individual budget by the end of 2010.</p> <p>The group said that it was important that someone from City College comes to the group to make sure courses there are helping people with learning disabilities to get into work.</p> <p><b>Action:</b>  <b>Maureen</b> will meet with Yvonne Elliot as soon as possible</p>	

**Next Meeting:**

10am – 11.30am 5 August 2010 at  
Castleham Hove

Apologies: Chris Bland, Liz Hall,  
Suzette Attwood

We will talk about

- The Employment Plan
- The LDDF projects
- Jobcentre Plus and Benefits